

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

GEOLOGY 106-2: EARTH HISTORY, Spring 2008

Dr. Carl Richter (MDSN 236; 337-482-5353; richter@louisiana.edu)

Class meets: TR 11.00 am – 12.15 pm

Office Hours: MTWRF: 9 - 11 am, or by appointment

Course description

Earth history examines the history of Earth from its origin to the present. Emphasis is placed on the development of Earth's major features (continents, ocean basins, mountain belts, biosphere, and atmosphere), earth materials (rocks and minerals), the dynamic internal and external processes that have shaped Earth and its life forms, and the history of life on Earth. The class provides an introduction to the study of fossils and the origins and history of life as revealed by the fossil record. The concept of geologic time is examined, as well as the development of the geologic time scale and the principles of relative and absolute dating. The theories of plate tectonics and organic evolution are investigated, and consideration is given to the methods by which these theories were developed and continue to be tested and revised.

Textbook

The Changing Earth by James Monroe and Reed Wicander (Thomson) 4th Edition and **iClicker response pad**.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed Geology and Man (GEOL 105), or Physical Geology (Geol 111), or Earth Science (Geol 225).

Grading

A total of 500 points can be obtained in the course, with final grade determination as shown:

Exams (3 @ 100 points ea.)	300 points
iClicker participation (80+20 pts)	100 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	100 points
Total points	500 points

Note: there will be four exams worth 100 points each; you will only need to participate in three exams to reach the full points. If you participate in all four tests, the lowest score will be dropped.

iClicker participation: every lecture you have the opportunity to earn 100 points using the iClicker (more about this system below) in class. 80 points are earned for participation in more than 80% of the questions and the remaining 20 points are earned for submitting the correct answers. The average of all results is your semester grade for the iClicker participation. If you are late for class or leave early, you may not be able to receive the 80 participation points.

The **final exam** is comprehensive and will cover the material of the entire semester.

During exams you are not allowed to leave in the first fifteen minutes, and cannot come in after the first person has left.

Final grade: The determination of the final grade is based on the following scale:

450 - 500 = A
400 - 449 = B
350 - 399 = C
300 - 349 = D
below 300 = F

Final grades that are within 5 points (1.0%) of the next highest grade (e.g., achieve ≥ 445 , ≥ 395 , ≥ 345 , or ≥ 295 points), will be raised to the next highest grade if not more than three classes were missed and all

bonus point assignments (if there are any) have been taken. The final grade will be determined for everybody strictly by these criteria.

Scantron cards for exams: You will need 5 blank SCANTRON forms (Scantron Form 2050-CN, which is blue or Accu-scan Form 2052, which is brown). Each 1 hr exam will be taken on a SCANTRON and will be machine graded. You must indicate your Cajun Card number, first and last name, and version number on the Scantron. Failure to do so or mistakes made on the Scantron will result in points deducted from your score (5% for first mistake, 10% for second, and 20% thereafter).

Class Participation and iClicker Classroom Performance System

We will use an interactive lecture aide called the iClicker. Each student is required to purchase and register a small white response pad (like a TV remote control).

Go to <http://www.iclicker.com/registration> to register for free. You will then need:

- 1) First Name
- 2) Last Name
- 3) Your CLID, the UL computer login ID, e.g., cdr1198, as the student ID
- 4) The serial number of the clicker found on the back of the clicker

Once everyone in the class is enrolled, each pad will be linked to a specific student, and your responses during class will be recorded and will *contribute to your final course grade*. It is *very important* for you to bring your pad to every lecture. **DO NOT** switch response pads or input responses for a student who is *not* in class that day – this is considered cheating. Lost or malfunctioning response pads will need to be replaced. Carefully store your response pad so as to avoid wearing out your batteries.

If you forget your remote or it is not working: You will not be able to participate in class and receive no credit. Three missed class periods will be excused – no questions asked. If you have reasons to miss more than three class periods you have to make arrangements through the office of the Dean of Students.

Course information in Moodle

Much of the course-related information and communication will be conducted within the Moodle site (<http://moodle.louisiana.edu>) for GEOL 106. Everything for the course can be found within Moodle - the syllabus, slides, grades, links, and other files. Moodle can be accessed from any computer equipped with an internet connection and a web browser.

Class Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes, and the university requires that instructors maintain attendance records. Because attendance is ascertained through iClicker, missing classes puts you at risk for failure. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to interview an informed classmate as to what material was covered and whether any assignments were given. Only those students who ATTEND class are the students who SUCCEED in class. There is NO SUBSTITUTE for attending class.

Out-of-class time: Understanding geology takes time, and like a sport it has to be practiced regularly (i.e., every day, or every other day), not crammed into one long overnight session the day before the exam. College courses require approximately 2-3 hours of work outside of class for every hour spent in class. This means you should expect to devote at least 6-9 hours per week, in order to do well in this course.

Classroom etiquette: Cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms must be turned off prior to entering the room.

Missed exams and quizzes

Exams: You need to participate in only three of the four exams given in class. No excuse needed if you miss one of them. **There will be no make-up exams.**

Missed iClicker participation: Three missed iClicker quizzes (e.g., empty batteries, forgotten remote, illness, funerals, broken alarm clocks, flat tires, hospital stays, sick children, weddings, high-school reunions, car accidents, food poisoning, early vacations, laziness, family emergencies, work commitments, travel, dead car batteries, dentist appointments, court orders, jury duty, etc.) are excused, all other missed quizzes count as zero.

If you are going to miss a number of classes, or need special consideration, please contact the Dean of Students. The Dean's office will assist you, and contact your instructors for you.

School functions and athletes: make arrangements **BEFORE** an exam if you have to miss more than one. You will be excused if you have to miss more than three class periods if you provide valid documentation.

Scholastic Dishonesty: You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the student handbook, the undergraduate Bulletin and the code of academic honesty. **The penalties for cheating in any form are severe**, and may include an F for a test, an F for the course, or even suspension from the University. If you are in doubt as to whether something is permitted, **ask**.

Emergency evacuation: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation of the class room, leave by the side doors and follow the emergency escape route which is posted by the stairs. These instructions indicate a Designated Rescue Area where emergency service personnel will go first to look for individuals who need assistance in exiting the building. Do not take the elevator. Students who may need assistance should identify themselves to the teaching faculty.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are urged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities, 126 Conference Center (482-5252), as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are received in a timely manner. Accommodation letters from SSD **MUST** be presented to faculty in order to receive accommodation.

Important academic dates/deadlines: February 2-6: Mardi Gras; March 21-30: Easter Holidays/Spring Break; April 3: Last day to drop with W; May 12 (2.00 - 4.30 pm): Final Examination.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter
<u>Section I: Introductory topics</u>			
Week 1	1/22-1/24	Introduction	
Week 2	1/29-1/31	Geological time	17
Week 3	2/07-2/12	Evolution and fossilization	18
Week 4	2/14	Universe and solar system	1
EXAM 1:	2/19		
<u>Section II: Precambrian Time</u>			
Week 5	2/21	Hadean and Archean Earth	19
Week 6	2/26-2/28	The Proterozoic	19
Week 7	3/04-3/11	Early Life	19
EXAM 2:	3/13		
<u>Section III: Paleozoic Time</u>			
Week 8	3/18-3/20	Paleozoic Earth	20
Week 9/10	4/01-4/08	Paleozoic Life	21
EXAM 3:	4/10		
<u>Section IV: Mesozoic Time</u>			
Week 11	4/15-4/17	Mesozoic Earth	22
Week 12	4/22-4/24	Mesozoic life	22
<u>Section V: Cenozoic Time</u>			
Week 13	4/29-5/01	Cenozoic history	23
EXAM 4:	5/06		
Week 14	5/08	Pleistocene and humans	23
FINAL EXAM: 5/12 (2.00-3.00 pm)			